

News Release



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State Park and Recreation Commission Elects Shriver, Eastwood to Top Posts

LOS ANGELES --The California State Park and Recreation Commission has elected Bobby Shriver as Chair and Clint Eastwood Vice-Chair of the nine-member commission.

Shriver, of Santa Monica, is chairman of DATA Foundation and the producer of the award-winning "A Very Special Christmas" record series. A lawyer, he came to California in 1978 as a reporter for the Los Angeles Herald Examiner.

Shriver succeeds Commissioner Caryl Hart of Sebastopol who joined the Commission in March 2000.

Eastwood, of Carmel, served as its Mayor from 1986 to 1988. Eastwood directed and starred in the 1992 film, "Unforgiven," for which he won an Academy Award for Best Picture and Best Director. The film, "Mystic River," which Eastwood directed in 2003, was nominated for six Oscars, and received two awards – Sean Penn for Best Actor in a Leading Role, and Tim Robbins, Best Actor in a Supporting Role.

The election of Shriver and Eastwood came at the Commission's regular meeting held Friday (July 16, 2004) in Los Angeles.

Other members of the Commission are:

Joseph Cotchett of Hillsborough, an attorney and former Commission Chair; Raquelle de la Rocha of Van Nuys, also an attorney; Gail Kautz of Lodi, vice-president of a winery and active in family farming; Mayor Sophia Scherman of Elk Grove; Phillip Tagami of Oakland, a real estate developer and investor; Paul Junger Witt of Los Angeles, a successful film and television producer, and also a former Chair; and Hart who is active in many environmental issues and is President of an entertainment and music production company.

The Commission, whose members are appointed by the Governor, approves general plans and offers other guidance and recommendations to the director of the California State Park system.

There are 278 units in the State Park system, the largest state park system in the United States. California State Parks plays host annually to more than 85 million visitors, and protects the most significant natural and cultural resources for all Californians. The Department is headed by Director Ruth Coleman who was appointed to the position by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

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